

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00677 141730Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6100
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0677

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OAU, XA, XF, AG
SUBJECT: ALGERIANS MAINTAIN RECENT RETICENCE AT CAIRO

1. ALGERIANS MADE CAIRO AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT FOCUS OF
ATTENTION AND ACTIVITY. BOUMEDIENE AND BOUTEFLIKA MADE
ONE OF THEIR RARE TANDEM APPEARANCES ABROAD, SUPPORTED
BY MOST OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PRESIDENCY TALENT. GOA
MEDIA PRESENTING CAIRO CHARTER AS MAJOR ALGERIAN AND THIRD
WORLD ACCOMPLISHMENT IN STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISTS,
COLONIALISTS AND ZIONISTS AND FOR REVISED INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC ORDER.

2. HOLDING OF SUMMIT, ORIGINALLY BOUMEDIENE BRAIN CHILD,
THEORETICALLY SHOULD REINFORCE ALGERIAN POSITION AS LINK
BETWEEN ARAB AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES, LINK WHICH ALGERIANS
HAVE WORKED HARD TO FORGE IN ORDER TO FURTHER THEIR ROLE
AS THIRD WORLD SPOKESMAN. SUMMIT'S ENDORSEMENT OF NIEO,
ANOTHER ALGERIAN INSPIRATION, THEORETICALLY SHOULD
REINFORCE ALGERIAN ROLE AT PARIS CIEC SESSION AS
ADVOCATE OF ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING. THESE FACTORS,
COMBINED WITH SADAT'S QUOTATION OF BOUMEDIENE'S
1968 COMMENTS AND PRAISE OF BOUMEDIENE, THEORETICALLY
SHOULD HAVE PROPELLED BOUMEDIENE AND ALGERIA TO
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 00677 141730Z

PROMINENT ROLE IN PROCEEDINGS.

3. YET, DESPITE STRONG ALGERIAN PRESENCE AND SUMMIT
ENDORSEMENT OF BOUMEDIENE WIT AND WISDOM, WE HAVE
IMPRESSION ALGERIANS AT CAIRO MAINTAINED LOW PROFILE
WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED MUCH OF THEIR ACTIVITY ON
INTERNATIONAL SCENE RECENTLY, FOR EXAMPLE AT LOME OAU

MINISTERIAL AND AT KINSHASA ECA MEETINGS. BOUMEDIENE APPARENTLY DID NOT SPEAK AT CAIRO SUMMIT. LIST OF INTERVIEWS HE CONDUCTED UNDISTINGUISHED; HE COULD NOT HAVE HAD MUCH NEW TO SAY TO ANY OF HIS INTERLOCUTORS. ALGERIA CONSPICUOUS BY ITS FAILURE TO ANNOUNCE CONTRIBUTION TO EITHER AID FUNDS OR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS; PROMISES ARE CHEAP AND SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN ROUTINE YEAR AGO. ALGERIANS APPARENTLY MADE NO EFFORT TO RAISE POLISARIO ISSUE AND APPEARED ACTIVE BEHIND THE SCENE ON ONLY ONE OR TWO RESOLUTIONS.

4. WE CONFESS WE PUZZLED BY APPARENT ALGERIAN MODEST PERFORMANCE AT CAIRO AT TIME WHEN STAGE APPEARED SET FOR MAJOR ROLE, WITH INSTITUTION-BUILDING YEAR BEHIND THEM, GOA TWIN STARS IN ATTENDANCE AND ALGERIAN-WRITTEN SCRIPT AT HAND. IF EVER ALGERIANS WERE GOING TO EMERGE FROM INTERNATIONAL SOMNOLENCE WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE OVERCOME THEM RECENTLY, CAIRO WOULD HAVE APPEARED LOGICAL SETTING. WE WILL BE EXPLORING THEORIES AS TO WHY COMPARATIVE ALGERIAN RESTRAINT CONTINUES AND WILL ATTEMPT TO DISSECT IT SHORTLY. IN MEANTIME, LET US ENJOY IT. LYNE

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